

## **CALCASIEU PARISH AIR MONITORING STUDY (CPAMS)**

### **FACTS**

- Three-year study launched by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Lake Area Industry Alliance, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 in response to concerns expressed by local citizen groups.
- Study constitutes major enhancement to the DEQ air-monitoring program that initially began in the early 1990's.
- Through a network of strategically placed monitors, air samples are collected to determine the type and concentration of air pollutants present. The monitors are located in Westlake, Mossville, Lighthouse Lane, Bayou D'Inde and Vinton.
- EPA initially used computer models of area emissions to assist in the selection of the best locations to conduct air monitoring.
- DEQ also used an enhanced modeling effort to evaluate the potential for Louisiana Ambient Air Standard (LaAAS) exceedences.
- A total of 267 air samples were collected and analyzed for 107 organic pollutants during the first year of the three-year study. This amounts to 28,569 individual measurements.
- So far, CPAMS has focused on the detection of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). VOCs are organic pollutants emitted by automobiles, gas stations, the petrochemical industry, commercial & home use of solvents and some natural sources. Some of these compounds are considered hazardous and also are referred to as air toxics.
- The results of the first year show all but one of the sites meet all of the LaAAS for organic pollutants.
- The Lighthouse Lane site failed to meet the Louisiana ambient air standard for the pollutant "vinyl chloride", which is one of the 107 pollutants measured. The source of the vinyl chloride emission was reported and corrected by DEQ.
- Ambient air monitoring across the state, whether for criteria pollutants or toxic air pollutants, is fundamentally important and a critical part of DEQ's effort to evaluate and improve the quality of the air we breathe.
- DEQ spends an average \$50,000 to establish one monitoring site. There are 44 sites across the state. The DEQ annual budget for air monitoring is approximately \$2.2 million.
- The high vinyl chloride reading discovered at Lighthouse Lane has proven the importance of ambient air monitoring programs.
- None of the sample results exceeded the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Minimal Risk Levels MRLs for short or long-term exposure.

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### **FACTS - *Continued***

- In general, vinyl chloride levels at the Calcasieu area sites are higher than other areas of the state but still well below the LaAAS set by DEQ.
- Benzene levels at Lighthouse lane are slightly higher than other areas of the state but still well below the LaAAS.
- All remaining measured compounds were below the LaAAS for all sites.
- Statewide monitoring data indicates that long-term VOC levels are declining.
- DEQ has recently added additional monitoring capabilities in Calcasieu Parish.
- These event monitors will further assist DEQ to evaluate compliance with LaAAS.
- DEQ monitors the air around the state in an effort to determine if set standards are being complied with.
- The EPA has established national public health standards for the criteria pollutants - Ozone, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PT, Pb, and CO - only. EPA has not set standards for air toxics.
- DEQ has gone a step further and established ambient air standards for the state of Louisiana intended to protect public health for a number of hazardous air pollutants or air toxics. Louisiana's standards have been set at very conservative levels.
- The air standards, computer modeling and air monitoring data are used together to develop guidelines for issuing permits to industry.
- It is noteworthy to report that DEQ was one of the first states to begin a monitoring program for air toxic pollutants and has been monitoring these pollutants around the state of Louisiana for a number of years now.